

Annual Report (2015-16) of the EANS Individual Membership Committee

The Committee had a new set of 20 members elected from within its membership a year ago. The first meeting of the new committee was during the Madrid Congress 2015. The aims agreed upon are outlined below:

1. **To continue to drive for more Individual Memberships**, aiming at reaching the 1500 mark by Athens 2016: Target Achieved
 - a. A sustained individual membership >1500 will allow the expansion of the IM Committee members, with voting rights during the AGM of the Council, to 40. Arrangements of how this is to be effected will be discussed in Athens.
2. **To strive for quality and value for money in the membership**. This led to a few recommendations
 - a. Recognition of long service for members: we have introduced the award of bronze, silver, and gold certificates for 5, 10, 15 years respectively. These will be ready for distribution in Athens.
 - b. The Committee had recommended to the Board that individual membership included 'free' membership to one Section. Even though this was not ratified, the Board did agree to monitor closely the value for money offered by the Sections to their paying IMs and to reconsider this proposal if necessary.
 - c. Ongoing assessment of the rewards and benefits to individual membership, such as hotel and conference discounts: the IM admin support from the EANS Secretariat has grown and now Liz Derow as well as Lucinda Foster are looking into this further.
3. **To pursue professional interaction with National Neurosurgical Societies**
 - a. through the avenue of "EANS Sessions/Symposia" in different countries' annual events. The idea is to raise the profile of the EANS in different settings and encourage individual membership and involvement with the EANS. This has already taken place successfully in Germany (twice) and Turkey. Others will hopefully follow.
 - b. A pilot scheme of joint membership registration as an IM for the EANS and for one's National Society is being discussed, eg with the Swedish Neurosurgical Society.



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4. The desire for **simplification of membership renewal** has been reiterated, and the possibility of direct debit, though unresolved, is still being examined. Whilst it is currently impossible to accept direct debit payments to our existing Belgian accounts, it will be possible to do so if we open one or more 'First Party' accounts (accounts held in our own name rather than by our notary on our behalf). This will require the presence of two Board members in Gent; we hope to be able to sort this out in Autumn 2016 and therefore to be able to offer direct debit payments from 2017 onwards.

5. Small **Humanitarian contribution**: Membership for low income countries/war zone areas has recently been introduced.

6. The Case of the Month on the EANS website is still promoted via the IM committee, and recently this has gained momentum with contributions from several colleagues. This is open to anyone.

The IM Committee welcomes suggestions on any of the above topics or on others that might be of interest to the members of our Society.

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